

MEETING MINUTES
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER
Meeting Conducted via GoToMeeting
Monday, December 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

I. Opening Procedures

Andy Malone (Lead Technical Consultant, Borrego Springs Watermaster) called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., at which time he confirmed the meeting was being recorded.

Mr. Malone called roll and confirmed that all six Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members were present at the start of the meeting. The following individuals were present at the meeting:

Technical Advisory Committee Members	Bob Wagner, PE (Principal Water Resources Engineer, Wagner & Bonsignore) – <i>representing AWARE</i>
	Tom Watson, PG (Principal Geologist, Aquilogic) – <i>representing T2 Borrego</i> – arrived later in the meeting
	Trey Driscoll, PG, CHG (Principal Hydrogeologist, INTERA) – <i>representing Borrego Water District</i>
	Leanne Crow (County of San Diego) – <i>representing County of San Diego</i>
	John Peterson, PG, CHG (retired) – <i>representing Roadrunner Golf and Country Club</i>
	Dr. Russell Detwiler (University of California, Irvine) – <i>representing the Borrego Springs Community</i>
Watermaster Staff	Andy Malone, PG (Principal Geologist, West Yost)
	Samantha Adams (Executive Director, West Yost)
	Lauren Salberg, PG (Staff Geologist, West Yost)
Others Present	Leonardo Urrego-Vallowe (Wagner & Bonsignore) – representing AWARE in absence of Bob Wagner later in the meeting
	Bob Abrams (Aquilogic)

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Redetermination of the 2025 Sustainable Yield

West Yost staff provided a report-out from the December 5, 2024 Board meeting where the Watermaster Board approved the redetermined 2025 Sustainable Yield of 7,952 acre-feet per year (afy). There were no public comments or TAC discussion.

IV. Scope of Work to Support Redetermination of the 2030 Sustainable Yield

West Yost staff provided a summary of the TAC and Technical Consultant recommendations for the 2030 Scope of Work and summarized Board feedback on the preliminary recommendations from the December 5, 2024 Board meeting. TAC discussion included:

- Mr. Peterson summarized his discussions with the scientists working on the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) project and asked (i) if the protection of GDEs is one of the Sustainable Management Criteria in the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) and (ii) if the results of the GDE project may be evaluated for Undesirable Results. Mr. Malone recommended that this question be deferred to a later time but noted that (i) GDEs are not identified as a Sustainable Management Criteria in the SGMA but (ii) are an environmental beneficial use that SGMA requires be considered and protected in GSPs.
- A request for the Technical Consultant to provide a ranking of the tasks included in its recommendation for the 2030 Scope of Work.
- Representatives for the Borrego Water District (BWD), AAWARE, and Roadrunner Golf and Country Club stated they did not plan to change their recommendations in the draft TAC Recommendation Report on the 2030 scope of work.
- Mr. Driscoll stated that BWD does not have any changes to their current recommendation on the 2030 scope of work, but its recommendation may change over time as new data/information are collected, reviewed, and analyzed. He also stated that BWD may perform its own analyses of certain tasks based on its priorities.

V. Analysis of Carryover Rules

West Yost staff provided a summary and draft recommendations on the analysis of Watermaster's Carryover Rules and summarized Board feedback received at the December 5, 2024 Board meeting. TAC discussion included:

- Recommendation to perform a simple analysis of Carryover for the entire Basin based on historical elections of Carryover (*i.e.* total Carryover elected may range from the average of approximately 80% up to 100%).
- Representatives for BWD, AAWARE, and T2 Borrego stated they agree with the Technical Consultant's draft recommendation to defer the analysis to 2030.

VI. Change in Groundwater Storage: Spring 2023 to Spring 2024

West Yost staff described the methods and results for calculating the change in groundwater storage for spring 2023 to spring 2024. Additionally, staff presented a comparison of the change in storage results from the Storage Change Method to the change in storage estimated by the *Calibrated* BVHM. TAC discussion included:

- Recommendation to compare the change in storage between the two versions of the BVHM (2016 BVHM vs. *Calibrated* BVHM).
- An expectation that even though the model has been updated, the overall pattern in the change of storage should be similar across model versions (*i.e.* decline in groundwater storage over time with a decreasing rate of decline).
- Recommendation that when communicating the results of the change in storage to the public the messaging should state that the Watermaster is not managing the Basin to zero change in storage. Instead, wet periods and dry periods may cause storage to increase and decrease, respectively, by relatively small volumes on an annual time step.

- Four TAC members (representing BWD, AAWARE, T2 Borrego, and the Roadrunner Golf and Country Club) agreed with the Technical Consultant's recommendation to (i) publish a decline in storage of 786 af in the WY 2024 Annual Report using results from the Storage Change Method, and (ii) update the Storage Change Method with aquifer properties from the *Calibrated* BVHM for the 5-year update of the GMP.

VII. Pumping Projections to Support the GMP Assessment Report

West Yost staff described the methods for preparing and simulating projection scenarios using the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM) and using the results of projection scenarios to evaluate future Basin conditions and compare against Sustainable Management Criteria in the GMP. TAC discussion included:

- New wells added to the multi-node well package (MNW2) will be representative of actual wells in the Basin.
- Three climate scenarios will be run for the projection period, two of which will include the application of the DWR's climate change factors.

VIII. Public Comments

Mr. Malone asked for public comments and any final TAC member comments.

- Mr. Driscoll wished the group happy holidays.

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Malone adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.